

provide security for our Nation's airports. Airport security, Mr. Speaker, should be a law enforcement function, not a minimum wage function. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker, because that is the bottom line that divides us here in the House. That is what this debate is all about, and that is why the bill has yet to come to the floor. Airport security should be a law enforcement function and not a minimum wage function. The American people will not return to flying until they know the skies are safe.

Despite the changes made since September 11, security lapses continue. I recently met with several Minneapolis-St. Paul airport police officers, airport screeners, and supervisors as well as Northwest Airlines pilots and flight attendants. To a person, they all told me airport security is still inadequate. I talked to a supervisor of screeners, security checkpoint screeners at Dulles Airport, spent about a half-hour with this woman, this supervisor, and she said, "Congressman, airport security here is a joke. It's not uniform, 80 percent of our personnel at Dulles are not citizens, 40 percent of them don't speak English and don't understand what is expected in terms of our security."

Mr. Speaker, that was alarming to me and it is certainly not reassuring to the American people. Low-paid and undertrained baggage screeners and spot checks of passenger luggage are not the solution. They are the problem. When the president of a major flight attendants union says that flight attendants do not feel safe yet, how can we expect the traveling public to feel safe? How can we expect the traveling public to return to the airlines?

We all know that the President has said he will sign our bipartisan aviation security bill if we can get it passed in this body. It passed the other body 100-to-nothing, unanimously. It is high time to stop the delay and pass this bill now.

Aviation security delayed is aviation security denied.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days, I have been meeting with constituents in Maine, including a couple of meetings with fire department, police department, and EMT personnel about what they have been going through since September 11. My colleague, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACC), and I did one of those meetings together; and I did another one yesterday morning in Portland.

What those people said to me over and over again is we need help with the added costs that we have run up since September 11; and, after all, this was

an attack on the United States and not on the State of Maine or the City of Portland or the towns in my district or anywhere else in the country. Second, they said we need training to cope with these new threats, chemical and biological threats or other threats, that we are not entirely prepared for. And, third, they said we need better communication with Federal officials, State officials, and others, in fact with each other, in order to do the jobs that we have set out to do.

But when we look at what is happening to our States right now, we notice several things. First, costs are up. Costs are up because of overtime and all sorts of additional tasks that are being undertaken since September 11. Revenues are down because of the slowing economy. Sales taxes have dropped; and other State revenues are down, so that for many States deficits are looming. In fact, for more than half a dozen States in this country, the deficits look like they could be over \$1 billion.

Tomorrow, this Congress, back in session, will take up an economic stimulus bill; and I have to say how disappointed I am in the bill that has been reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means on a partisan, not a bipartisan, basis.

First of all, it provides huge tax breaks to some of the largest corporations in the country. Second, it will cut State revenues, I said cut State revenues, by \$5 billion a year for each of the next 3 years. And, third, it is, as I said, not a bipartisan bill, not in the spirit of unity and resolve that we have shown in this Congress and around the country since September 11 but a partisan bill.

Let me touch for a moment on the tax cuts to corporations, largely coming from the repeal of the corporate alternative minimum tax and certain AMT tax credit carry-forwards, a technical term. But let us look at this.

People around this country, many of them, got \$300 for a tax rebate a little while ago. IBM, if the bill passes tomorrow and is signed by the President and passed by the Senate, would get \$1.4 billion in a tax rebate. General Motors would get \$833 million in a tax rebate. General Electric would get \$671 million in a tax rebate.

What sense does that make? I cannot explain that to people back in Maine. We have \$25 billion going to some of the largest and most successful corporations in this country. They are good companies, they work hard; but these corporations do not need \$25 billion in tax rebates now.

□ 2045

Let me go quickly to another point. I mentioned what has been happening in our States. Revenues are down; costs are up. A report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that the States collectively will lose \$5 billion

in revenues over each of the next 5 years precisely because of the tax changes that are going to be made at the Federal level if the House bill passes tomorrow.

Now, why does that happen? It happens because so many States, in fact, 49, have their tax laws tied to the Federal tax laws, so when we make a change here, it affects State revenues. What does this mean for economic stimulus? It means that State revenues will be cut. They will have to increase taxes or lay off people because of the changes that we make. What will that do? It will slow down the economy.

So the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Republican majority tomorrow are steps that will slow down economic activity in our states. It makes no sense.

Now we are engaged in a war on terrorism. We are engaged in conflict abroad, and we are engaged in a major effort here at home to protect our citizens. We are asking our citizens for sacrifice; we are asking our citizens to pull together.

Tomorrow, we will have an economic stimulus package from the House Committee on Ways and Means on a partisan basis which hands out \$25 billion to the largest corporations in this country and will take away \$5 billion a year from our State governments at a time when they need it most.

Mr. Speaker, the majority should be embarrassed by this legislation that is coming to the House floor tomorrow. These major American companies in energy areas, in automobiles, they should be embarrassed by this \$25 billion handout. We should turn our back on it and develop a real economic stimulus package for the people of this country.

AIRLINE SECURITY LEGISLATION NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this is day 42 after the attack of September 11, and still this Chamber has not had one single solitary itty-bitty vote to do a darn thing about airline safety. It is incredible to me that tomorrow we will be voting on these giant handouts, corporate tax breaks; and we have done absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker, for the traveling public of this country to make airlines safer.

Let me tell you why I feel so strongly about this. Thursday I was flying up to New York, and the fellow next to me was going through security. And we have got National Guardsmen standing there, and they are doing the great duty standing there. And our screeners are I think trying to do a little better job.